

Appln No. 09/648,191
Amdt date January 12, 2004
Reply to Office action of October 23, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested.

Claims 1 - 14 are now in the application. Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 have been amended. Claims 15 - 25 are withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fahlen et al. The Examiner has also rejected Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Fahlen et al. in view of Chuang et al.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to call for (underlining added for emphasis) ... a frame mounted on the backplate, the frame having a support portion maintaining a cell gap between the faceplate and the backplate and an integral support extension extending from the support portion, the integral support extension having opening portions, the electron emission sources being exposed through the opening portions toward the faceplate; ... a plurality of spacers formed on the integral support extension; and ... a plurality of gate electrodes formed at a surface of the integral support extension with a predetermined pattern, the gate electrodes having opening portions communicating with the opening portions of the frame.

As such, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Fahlen et al. under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Fahlen et al. may provide for various embodiments of a flat panel device having an internal support structure. However, as can be seen in Fig. 13 pointed to by the Examiner, addressing grid structure 35 is merely supported by separate rear supports 51 and has separate face plate supports 42 on the face of the

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addressing grid 35. (see Column 20, line 47, through Column 21, line 54.) Further, the Applicants point to Column 23, lines 28 - 33, where it states: "As described above with reference to FIGS 12, 13 and 14A in particular, the addressing grid must be supported at front and back (except for small screen embodiments), as by front supports 42 and back supports 51 engaged between the addressing grid structure 35 and the face plate 12 or the back plate 16, respectively." It can be clearly seen that the addressing grid structure, the front supports and the back supports are all distinct and separate structures.

Similarly, as can be seen in Fig. 9A also pointed to by the Examiner, column electrodes 911 are formed on (supported by) (separate) insulator 912 and has (separate) anode spacer walls 908 extending from the column electrodes 911 to faceplate 902. (see Column 15, line 36, to Column 16, line 6.)

As such, the Applicants submit that Fahlen et al. does not describe, teach or suggest a specific frame having a support portion maintaining a cell gap and an integral support extension extending from the support portion which has opening portions and predetermined locations for spacers positioned at non-display areas within the cell, a plurality of spacers being formed on the integral support; and a plurality of gate electrodes being formed at a surface of the integral support extension with a predetermined pattern, the gate electrodes having opening portions communicating with the opening portions of the frame. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Fahlen et al. under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claim 2 - 14 are dependent on Claim 1. As such, the dependent claims are believed allowable based upon Claim 1 and

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further for the limitations contained in the respective dependent claims.

Therefore, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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